

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 EURE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 CIEP-02 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /105 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0068

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 3079

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON NEW PRIME MINISTER

SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR REQUESTED A CALL ON NEW PM AND RECEIVED PROMPT AND CORDIAL RECEPTION. PM STATED HE DID NOT BELIEVE WILD STORIES ABOUT CIA APPEARING IN LOCAL PRESS AND REQUESTED BY SAME TOKEN WE NOT TAKE SERIOUSLY ALLEGATIONS THAT THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT WAS "FACIST" OR "MOSCOW-CONTROLLED." END SUMMARY

1. AMBASSADOR REQUESTED EARLY MEETING WITH NEW PRIME MINISTER FASCO GONCALVES IN PREPARATION FOR WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS. PM SPEEDILY ACCEDED TO THE REQUEST AND SAW THE AMBASSADOR ON JULY 19, THE DAY FOLLOWING THE PM'S SWEARING IN. FOREIGN MINISTER MARIO SOARES WAS PRESENT AND INTERPRETED PRIME MINISTER'S REMARKS INTO FRENCH (PM UNDERSTOOD AMBASSADOR'S FRENCH BUT PREFERRED SPEAK IN PORTUGUESE). INTERVIEW WAS CORDIAL WITH PM APPEARING INTELLIGENT AND SOMEWHAT SHY. CONTRARY TO REPORTS, PM SHOWED A GOOD SENSE OF HUMOR.

2. AMBASSADOR SAID HE HAD SOUGHT INTERVIEW IN ORDER PRESENT HIS COMPLIMENTS TO NEW PM AND TO EXPRESS HOPE
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THAT CLOSENESS THAT HAD CHARACTERIZED US-GOP RELATIONS

IN PAST WOULD BE EVEN CLOSER DURING GONCALVES' INCUMBENCY. PM RECIPROCATED THESE SENTIMENTS, POINTING OUT THAT HIS GOVERNMENT'S DEDICATION TO PROGRAM OF ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT DEFINITELY INCLUDED COMMITMENT TO RESPECT FULLY PORTUGAL'S INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS. AMBASSADOR STATED THAT HE HAD ALSO SOUGHT APPOINTMENT IN VIEW OF FACT HE WOULD BE PROCEEDING ON JULY 21 TO WASHINGTON FOR CONSULTATIONS AND THEREFORE WISHED GIVE PM OPPORTUNITY CONVEY PERSONALLY ANY MESSAGE THAT PM MIGHT WISH TRANSMIT. PM THANKED AMBASSADOR FOR PROVIDING OPPORTUNITY AND ASKED THAT HE TRANSMIT TO THE SECRETARY HIS COMPLIMENTS AND BEST WISHES AND HIS HOPES FOR CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND HIS GOVERNMENT.

3. IN COURSE CONVERSATION, AMBASSADOR REFERRED TO ALMOST DAILY STORIES IN PORTUGUESE PRESS CONCERNING ALLEGED CIA ACTIVITIES. NOW THAT PORTUGAL, SINCE APRIL 25, HAS ADOPTED SELF-DETERMINATION POLICY TOWARD AFRICA WHICH US HAS LONG URGED, AND DOMESTICALLY HAS EMBARKED ON PATH OF US-STYLE DEMOCRACY, IT IS INCONCEIVABLE THAT USG OR ANY OTHER AGENCY THEREOF WOULD BE ACTING TO UNDERMINE THE NEW GOP. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT, AS EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD, EMBASSY LISBON DID HAVE CIA REPRESENTATIVE, WHOSE IDENTIFY KNOWN TO GOP BUT THAT WAS EXTENT OF CIA INVOLVEMENT IN PORTUGAL. SOARES NOTED THAT GOP NO LONGER CONTROLS PRESS. AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT HE FULLY AWARE OF THAT AND WAS NOT COMPLAINING ABOUT PRESS OR SEEKING THAT IT BE CONTROLLED, BUT JUST WANTED TO ENSURE THAT, IN RESPECT TO CIA ALLEGATIONS, GOP LEADERS WERE NOT PLACING ANY CREDENCE IN LOCAL PRESS. PRIMIN GONCALVES ASSURED AMBASSADOR THAT GOP DID NOT BELIEVE THE LOCAL PRESS STORIES ABOUT ALLEGED CIA ACTIVITIES. HE HOPED BY SAME TOKEN THAT PRESS WOULD NOT BE BELIEVED WHEN IT CHARGED THAT ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT WAS "FASCIST" OR "MOSCOW-CONTROLLED."
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LISBON03079
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740197-0458
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740729/aaaaayrl.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAY 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON NEW PRIME MINISTER SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR REQUESTED A CALL ON NEW PM AND
TAGS: PFOR, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005